

**SCHOOL**

Staff Development Day - [Monday 27th September](#)
 Mid-term break: [Monday 25th through Friday 29th October](#)
 Staff Development Day - [Monday 1st November](#)

CLOSINGS:

The school will close for Christmas at 12.00 noon on [Wednesday 22nd December](#).

IMPORTANT DATES:

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
4 th After School Club Re-Starts 2-3pm	4 th November Flu Vaccine
18 th Maths Week Ireland	15 th Anti-Bullying Week
22 nd October Halloween Fun Dress-up Day	3 rd November School Photographer
	22 nd – 26 th Parent / Teacher Consultations

PLEASE NOTE THAT ADDITIONAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES WILL NO DOUBT BE PLANNED FOR THE COMING MONTHS. WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED AS THESE ARISE.

PARENT LINKS:

In keeping with DE Guidance, parent information sessions cannot be held in school. Instead of our usual curriculum meetings this term, teachers are sharing a presentation with parents, outlining class routines and expectations, the curriculum for the year and how you can help at home.

We plan to hold our **Annual Individual Parent Teacher consultations** during the last week of 22nd November. Appointments will be issued closer to the time. If you would prefer a specific time or day, please contact the class teacher in advance and if possible, we will attempt to accommodate this.

DAILY MILE:

Classes continue to participate in the daily mile to improve fitness and concentration.

BEHAVIOUR:

St Mary's prides itself on being a friendly, caring school where **bullying behaviour is not tolerated**. The revised Anti-Bullying Policy, reflecting new legislation, will be shared with you in the coming weeks. There is a rolling **preventative Anti-Bullying programme** in place in all classes and from time to time additional assemblies, workshops and other events are provided. If you as parents have any worries or concerns about your child's well-being please do not hesitate to see the class teacher or myself. Allegations of bullying are taken seriously, the NI Anti-Bullying Assessment Matrix is used to address concerns and formal records are maintained. Please note that Golden Time is used as a behaviour management strategy from P2-7. **Pupils who achieve 100% Golden Time will be awarded a certificate at the end of each half-term. Think Time Discussion Sheets will be sent home with pupils for a parental signature following incidents of unacceptable behaviour.**

CONCUSSION:

I urge parents, that if a child has suffered a knock on the head outside school, please make us aware, so that we can take the necessary precautions to prevent / address a possible secondary concussion.

MEDICINES:

It is our policy that medicines should not be administered by school staff, except in cases where a health plan has been agreed for long-term medication. **Please do not send antibiotics, cough mixture, pain relief etc. with children.**

ABSENCES:

Our attendance is completed electronically in class at 9.10am. If children arrive after registration, this must be recorded and will affect the overall attendance percentage for that pupil. Reasons for absence must also be noted on our computer system and will be

accessible to the Education Welfare Officer. We are obliged to refer to the Welfare Service when attendance drops below 85% (28 days in the year, the equivalent of almost 6 weeks of school). Parents should **report absences via the button on the website** homepage. Parents should send a message to the class teacher on Seesaw **if their child needs to leave school for an appointment.**

AFTER SCHOOL: After School Club will re-open for P1-3 pupils on 4th October. Numbers attending will be restricted and for this reason parents must book and pre-pay at least 1 day in advance.

UNIFORM: Once again we must congratulate the children for the excellent turnout in school uniform. We ask that for safety children wear suitable footwear (no high heels) and only stud earrings. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that each item of uniform be **clearly marked** with the child's name. Please note that only plain navy trousers should be worn (ie without stripes or emblems)

HEALTHY EATING: We continue to promote our healthy eating policy and ask that children bring only **fruit or other healthy snack for break.**
The school dinner menu complies with the Nutritional Guidelines (as overseen by the Education Authority). We do ask that packed lunches also contain healthy food.
NO CHOCOLATE, CRISPS OR NUTS OF ANY KIND IN PACKED LUNCHES PLEASE!!

BOOKING DINNERS: **All dinners must be pre-booked through the school money app.** Those not entitled to free school meals, must pre-pay through the app

We always aim to work closely with parents and again ask you to feel free to contact the class teacher or me about any queries or concerns you may have.

I wish one and all a happy and rewarding school year. We expect all our pupils to work to the best of their ability, respect each other and hopefully enjoy all aspects of school life.

Mrs. P Kelly
PRINCIPAL





Arrival and Collection Procedures

We all want to ensure that all pupils can enter and exit school in the safest possible manner.

Children who travel by car will use the church gate, so as to reduce the roadside danger at bus times. Parents must take responsibility for children moving through the church carpark.



Pupils who walk or take a bus to and from school should use the gate at the steps.



For the safety of pupils, and due to the limited space, we ask that the school car park is reserved for staff and disabled access only.